

OLC 78-5316

DDO

03 OCT 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: John H. Stein
Acting Deputy Director for Operations

FROM : Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Congressional Oversight Perception of
the Value of DDO Clandestine Collection

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1. As you are aware, the budget requests for the DDO have steadily declined over each of the past several years. Similarly, Congressional authorizing Committees have steadily reduced those budget requests still further. There continues to be a perception on the part of both authorizing Committees (Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence) that clandestine HUMINT collection is too costly, too risky and possibly not as valuable as we say it is.

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2. Obviously, the "tutorial" that James O. Bush, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence staff, is currently receiving is a significant step in the right direction. However, his is more or less a "one-time" experience and the great bulk of SSCI and HPSCI Membership and staff continue to be skeptical about the value of clandestinely acquired HUMINT.

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3. As you may know, NFAC has a fairly regular "show and tell" program with the SSCI and HPSCI. At least theoretically, NFAC is prepared to go to Capitol Hill once every two weeks to brief on "current intelligence." In fact this takes place less than once a month. It occurs to me that it would be highly beneficial to conduct similar programs for the DDO. I do not think that the most sensitive reporting (ORCON and the like) need be included. Similarly, it would probably not be a good idea to brief them on the kinds of information coming out of the Soviet Union, Soviet Bloc, Peoples Republic of China, etcetera. However, the rest of the world

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provides, I would think, an ample base for briefings, either by topic or region: For example:

Nuclear energy -- on countries which are developing nuclear explosive devices.


Economics -- with particular reference on how DDO reporting supports United States Government policy and provides U.S. negotiators with bottom line evaluations of other countries' pre-negotiation positions.

Support to National Intelligence Daily -- A wrap-up of the numbers of contributions to the NIDs or President's Daily Brief in a given time period.

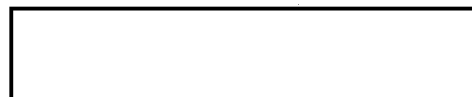
By region -- such as Africa, Latin America -- political movements, regional activities (OPEC, etcetera).



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5.  In sum, what I am suggesting is that we collectively explore ways and means of improving the image of DDO's collection effort with Congressional oversight Committees. It well may be that after considerable thought, we will all determine that we simply cannot do it -- however, I think that we would be remiss not to at least explore it thoroughly.

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Frédéric P. Hitz

*John: we've got to do more
to sell the PRODUCT*